

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3680
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMMES ON A.I.R.
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Agricultural Programmes are regularly broadcasted from all the Radio Stations in the country;
- (b) if so, the names and number of stations which are producing these programmes and broadcasting;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the number of the Expert Farm Radio Officers are posted at various stations in the country;
- (e) the number of posts are vacant at present;
- (f) whether the Government have framed the new policy for farm broadcasts; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that all the AIR Stations in the country except Vividh Bharati and Community Radio Stations, are broadcasting Agricultural programmes on a regular basis.

(d) & (e): Prasar Bharati has informed that as on 31.10.2002, 28 Farm Radio Officers (FRO) are posted at various Stations of AIR. Since the post of FRO has now been amalgamated with that of the Programme Executive, no vacancy is available in the grade of FRO.

(f) & (g): Prasar Bharati is a statutory autonomous corporation and enjoys autonomy in programme matters within the mandate laid down under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. Government has no role to play in this regard. However, Prasar Bharati has informed that Farm and Home programmes in AIR Stations are produced in consultation with the Ministries/Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development, of the Centre/State Governments. Special programmes are designed by AIR to cater to day-to-day/seasonal needs of the farming community, which is a continuous process.